



ACADEMIC PLANS FOR STUDENTS

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF STUDENTS IN GRADES 3–8

If your child does not score at the basic level or higher on the Palmetto Achievement Challenge Tests (PACT), your school is required by state law to develop an Academic Plan for Students (APS). Additionally, state law requires that every student in a retention year have an APS. A local district may also have other criteria to identify students in need of an APS.

The APS will be developed in a conference at the beginning of the school year after your child scores below basic. You, your child, and school personnel will participate in the conference to identify problem areas and agree upon strategies to help your child overcome these problems during the school year. The APS agreement will require action and commitment from you, your child, and the school.

Your child's progress on the APS must be assessed every grading period, and you should be notified of any problems or concerns. At the end of the school year, your child's APS team will decide if he now has the skills to perform at grade level or if more intensive help is needed. If the school judges your student to be at grade level and he scores below basic on PACT in the same subject area at any time in the future, the school will schedule a conference to develop a new APS.

If your child is not performing at grade level by the end-of-the-year review, he must attend summer school and/or a year-long comprehensive remediation program as part of the on-going APS. This will be in addition to any other general academic assistance in the APS.

If your child is required to have an APS for a second academic year, you will be notified that he is on probation. At the end of the probation year, your child will be retained if the school's end-of-the-year review shows that he is still not performing at grade level.

As a parent, you have the right to appeal end-of-the-year decisions. However, your child will be required to attend summer school, comprehensive remediation, or be retained if his record cannot prove an ability to perform at grade level.



Responsibilities of Participants

The school

1. schedules a beginning-of-the-year conference to develop the APS,
2. provides general academic assistance in year one (comprehensive remediation or summer school in year two),
3. monitors and updates the student's APS, and
4. makes an end-of-year decision based on all available information including test scores, grades, and teacher judgment.

The parent

1. works with the school to schedule the beginning-of-the-year conference,
2. actively participates in the conference to decide the best course of action to help the student meet his academic goals,
3. follows through on parent interventions such as monitoring homework time or listening to the child read at home, and
4. supports the child in meeting his commitment to the APS.

The child

1. participates in the beginning-of-the-year conference,
2. asks for help when needed, and
3. keeps his commitment to student interventions such as attending all classes and turning in all homework.